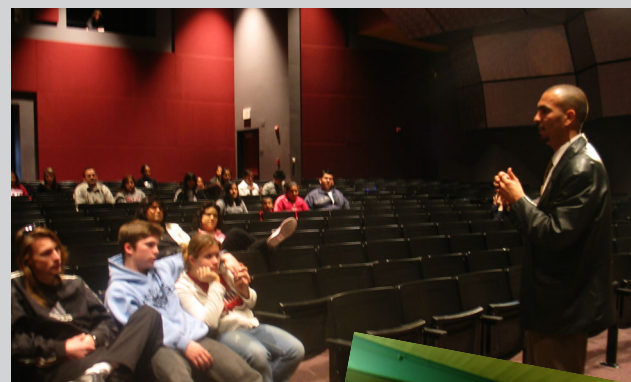


PARENT NIGHT!



Owyhee Parent Meeting

Owyhee High School held their first 2005-06 GEAR UP meeting with the parents and students on November 2nd. The parents and students enjoyed a buffet dinner. The GEAR UP Coordinator, Brenda Lizzotte, gave a presentation on how important GPAs are to colleges. College course catalogs, brochures and flyers were on display and left on each dinner table to browse through. Forty-four attended an increase over last year's attendance. Owyhee juniors also attended a college and career fair on November 15th in Elko. The agenda for future trips include a trip to Oregon in the spring to visit Oregon State University and University of Ohio.

Valley Family Night

Students entertained those attending the Valley High School Parent Night. The students performed skits in the theatre. The topics of the skits included "Notre Dame" and "your life if you attend college vs. your life if you don't attend college. Following the skits attendees spent time in the computer lab. GEAR UP parents spent time reviewing the college application form. They also met with the PAALS parents (parents as academic leaders), many of the GEAR UP parents signed up to be a part of the PAALS program.



GEAR UP HIGH SCHOOLS

Clark County
Chaparral
Canyon Springs
Clark/Mojave
Desert Pines
Palo Verde/Del Sol
Rancho/Valley
Western/Cheyenne
Cimarron Memorial
Eldorado/Durango
Las Vegas Academy
Las Vegas
Vo-Tech
A-Tech
Elko County
Owyhee
Lyon County
Yerington
Humboldt County
McDermitt
Mineral County
Mineral County
Nye County
Gabbs
Beatty
Tonopah
Washoe County
Hug

GEAR UP Contacts

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GEAR UP Grapevine

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

Winter 2006/ Volume 1, Number 11

Students Visit the Regional Justice Center



Desert Pines GEAR UP and Avid students traveled to the Regional Justice Center to explore the judicial system. The students sat in on three trials, learned court terminology and toured the holding facilities and the Judges chambers. They also spoke with presiding judges. The judges reviewed the judicial system with the students and explained the process of becoming a judge. One of the judges shared his personal story with the students telling them of his life and how he overcame obstacles in his path to rise to his current position, another judge offered a shadowing program to any student who may be interested in someday becoming a judge. The students left the justice center with a enlightened view of our judicial system.

GEAR UP PADRES

GEAR UP es un programa de apollo a los estudiantes y padres con información y actividades para prepararlos para el colegio.

Suéñelo

Créalo

Lógrelo

Favor de llamarle al consejero escolar de su hijo/hija para la información acerca del Programa GEAR UP.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Be sure to let GEAR UP know if you change your address. That way we can continue to contact you for these and other exciting college-prep activities. Please send your address change to your GEAR UP school or to: jthomas@doe.nv.gov

GEAR UP PARTNERS

	<u>College Partners</u> Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents	
	<u>Agency Partners</u> Nevada State Treasurer State Board of Education Nevada Department of Education	
	<u>Business Partners</u> Wells Fargo Bank USA Funds SBC	

GEAR UP...

One of the primary objectives of GEAR UP is to promote student achievement and prepare students for college. GEAR UP seeks to accomplish these goals by promoting, facilitating and coordinating the creation of partnerships between schools, parents, community organizations, government agencies, foundations, businesses, colleges and universities.

Get Ready ACT®

The ACT consist of four multiple choice tests, in English, Math, Reading and Science Reasoning, plus an optional 30 minute writing test. The ACT measures your achievement in each area. Doing well on the ACT will give your college application an edge and increases your chances of getting into the college of your choice. The ACT gives college admissions officers a means of comparing students from different areas. You should take the ACT for the first time in the spring of your junior year. You can take the ACT again in your senior year if you would like to try to get a higher score. You should register six weeks before the test date. To register, ask your counselor for a registration packet or visit actstudent.org.

ACT Stats

Length -	2 hours, 55 minutes (add 30 minutes if you are taking the writing test)
Sections -	English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning and Writing
Scoring -	1-36 points per section, and a composite score from 1-36
Test Dates -	April 8 th and June 10

ACT Study Plan

ACT Online Practice Tests (4- 12 hours to complete)

Practice tests give you a chance to familiarize yourself with the exam:

- see what kind of material is on the test
- see how long the test takes
- determine the pace you will need to work to do well on the test

Peterson's ACT Online Course (3-7 weeks, total of 30 hours)

Get customized preparation with Peterson's ACT Online Course.

First, take a diagnostic pretest that determines where you need to work.

Next, you'll get a customized lesson plan based on your results, which will include:

- targeted lessons with skill building in every ACT topic
- three timed, full length practice test which allow you to get to know the test structure
- custom options including tutoring and essay help from a Harvard-educated editor

You can study whenever you want from a Mac or PC with Internet access.

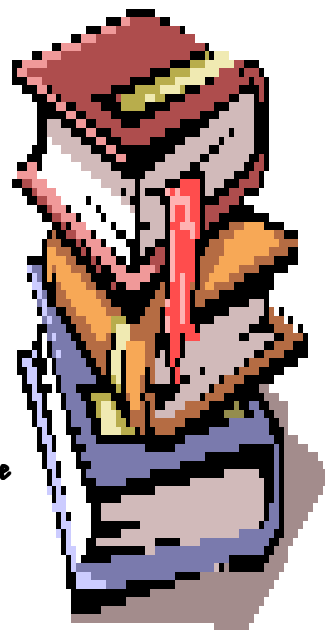
ACT EssayEdge Essay Scoring and Review (time to complete varies)

To prepare for the writing test, ACT EssayEdge partners you with a Harvard-educated editor. You write an essay in response to a test-like topic. Next, you choose how you want to prepare:

- to learn all about ACT opt for a full critique, with scoring. Included is a full edit that shows you how to earn a top score
- the next option provides a score, as well as a two-paragraph review that explains how to sharpen your skills
- If you're down to the wire, or just want to get a little practice and see how you would score, you can select automatic online scoring

The ACT writing test is optional, however most colleges will accept scores, because they're interested in seeing how well you write, some schools even require ACT scores. It's not a bad idea to take the writing test if you are fairly confident you will do well.

The key to the ACT is to do what works for you, prepare and the ACT is nothing to stress over.



"Plan for a Successful Campus Visit and Interview"

1. **Plan Ahead.** Schedule your visit at least two weeks in advance. Some colleges require you to call two months in advance for an interview appointment.
2. **Be Prepared.** Read about the school in advance. Think about why you are there and the kind of questions you have about the college. Make sure to ask them.
3. **Wear something Comfortable.** Wear something that will make a good first impression, do not over or under dress.
4. **Arrive Early.** Allow yourself time to look around prior to your scheduled visit. Listen to what people are saying and ask questions. You can learn a lot just by observing your surroundings.
5. **Relax.** You do not want to appear uncomfortable. Speak clearly and directly to the person you are talking with. Maintain good eye contact. Smile, sit up straight and don't chew gum.
6. **Take advantage of all the college has available to you.** Schedule an interview if possible, take a tour, and visit specific departments you are interested in. Ask questions, the people you meet learn a lot about you by the questions you ask, plan your questions ahead of time.
7. **Let the Best in You Show Through.** You have a lot to offer make sure they see it. Tell your story, and relate any challenging or extraordinary circumstances that helped you get to where you are.
8. **Keep a Record.** Keep a thorough record of your visits. Pictures and postcards will help to refresh your memory.
9. **Follow-up.** Thank-you notes are important, thank those whose took time with you on your visit.

McDermitt Student selected as Representative!

Katie Hill, a junior at McDermitt High School and GEAR UP Scholar, represented the Booz Allen Hamilton Youth Leadership Group at the launching of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Education Network Conference in Washington, D.C. last fall. Katie served on a panel discussing Building Public/Private Partnerships to Improve Student Achievement, Schools and Communities. Representing Nevada business on the panel was Mendy Elliott, Senior Vice President and Director, Government and Community Relations, Wells Fargo Bank. Ms Elliot also serves on the GEAR UP State Council. Charlotte Curtis, GEAR UP State Coordinator also served on the panel. Katie discussed the student perspective, Ms Elliott presented the business perspective and Ms Curtis discussed the educational contribution.

Katie is a member of McDermitt High School junior class. Katie has an outstanding GPA and hopes to receive the Millennium, GEAR UP and other scholarships when she graduates from high school in 2007. Katie participates in volleyball, basketball and track and is the secretary of the McDermitt Student Council. She is involved in Learn and Serve America grant in McDermitt, and has participated in GEAR UP college preparatory classes for the past four years.

MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIPS WILL REQUIRE A 3.25 GPA FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2007!



TMCC TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

www.collegeispossible.org

This is a resource guide for parents, students, and education professionals. It provides information about preparing for college, choosing the right college, and paying for college.

www.mapping-your-future.org

Provides helpful information about college and career planning, and has sections for middle to high school students and parents.

www.collegelife.about.com

This site provides information about various aspects of college life from the viewpoint of current college students. Topics include academics, athletics, living options, what to bring, Greek Systems, social life, and more.

www.usafunds.org

This site provides helpful information for students and parents about planning and paying for college.

www.nevada.collegeanswer.com

This site answers just about any question you might have about college and is sponsored by USA Funds.

